

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 L-01 OPR-01 ORM-01 DHA-02 SCS-01 SCA-01

DODE-00 A-01 PM-03 OC-01 CCO-00 /046 W

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R 281400Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TOHSECSTATE WASHDC 0026

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 00391

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JM, US

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN JAMAICA: POSSIBLE REQUEST
FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM BY EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND
RUMORS OF E&E

REF: KINGSTON 350

1. DCM MET WITH FSL COMMITTEE JANUARY 26 TO DISCUSS MEMO-
RANDUM DESCRIBED REFTEL. IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE CONCERNS
WHICH STIMULATED THAT MEMO FLOW PRIMARILY FROM: (A) JANUARY 7
ATTACK BY DEMONSTRATORS ON CONSULAR SECTION, AND (B) CURRENT
RUMORS OF A "RED TAKEOVER" WHICH HAVE BEEN FED IN PART BY
MINISTER ISAACS' DISMISSAL.

2. DCM EMPHASIZED THAT, CONTRARY TO LOCAL RUMORS, THERE IS
NO PLAN FOR EVACUATION OF EITHER AMERICAN COMMUNITY OR OF
MISSION PERSONNEL, NOR DO WE EXPECT SITUATION TO DETERIORATE
TO POINT SUCH ACTION WOULD BECOME NECESSARY. ASSURANCES WERE
GIVEN THAT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE WE DO LOOK AFTER OUR
LOCAL EMPLOYEES WHEN THERE IS A DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE THREAT
TO THEM. THIS IS WORLDWIDE POLICY, BUT WE DO NOT ANTI-
CIPATE IT WILL BE APPLIED HERE. LOCALS WERE CAUTIONED TO
AVOID DISCUSSING MATTER AND WERE TOLD IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS
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THAT OPEN DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT ONLY FEEDS (TO

EVERYONE'S DETRIMENT) THE ALREADY OVERWORKED KINGSTON RUMOR MILL. FSL COMMITTEE SEEMED SATISFIED AND VOLUNTEERED THAT NO INDIVIDUALS WERE AT THIS POINT CONSIDERING "POLITICAL ASYLUM."

3. COMMENT: THE LOCAL RUMOR MILL IS INDEED OVERWORKED AND IS REACHING LUNATIC PROPORTIONS EVEN WITHIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY. EMBASSY IS BEING INUNDATED WITH TELEPHONE CALLS FROM CONCERNED AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO ARE ASKING: (A) WHETHER IT IS TRUE ALL AMERICANS ARE BEING REGISTERED IN PREPARATION FOR EVACUATION; AND (B) WHETHER IT IS TRUE A DESTROYER IS SHORTLY TO ARRIVE TO COMMENCE EVACUATION. EXTRAORDINARILY ENOUGH, SOME OF THESE CALLS COME FROM THE NORMALLY MORE RESPONSIBLE AND SOBER MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. PERHAPS CONTRIBUTING TO THE FOREGOING TYPES OF RUMORS ARE OTHER RUMORS TO EFFECT THERE WILL BE VIOLENT AND MASSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT KINGSTON WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS--INCLUDING ATTACKS ON EMBASSY OFFICES AND FIREBOMBING OF WEALTHIER AREAS OF KINGSTON. WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INFO THAT THERE IS ANY BASIS TO THESE RUMORS. THEY MAY BE LINKED TO PM MANLEY'S CALL FOR A MASSIVE PNP PARTY RALLY ON JAN 29 TO "RECOMMIT TO DEFEND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM". (PM CANCELLED RALLY JUST AFTER THIS WRITTEN.)
GERARD

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NNN

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